



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Los Angeles River Center & Gardens
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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

FROM:  Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Executive Officer

DATE: July 9, 2007

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item V(e): Consideration of resolution accepting a grant from the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for interpretation of the Los Angeles River and Santa Monica Bay Watersheds, including visitor serving amenities and naturalist led interpretive programs for the public as well as programs specifically designed for disadvantaged youth.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution accepting a grant from the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for interpretation of the Los Angeles River and Santa Monica Bay Watersheds, including visitor serving amenities and naturalist led interpretive programs for the public as well as programs specifically designed for disadvantaged youth.

Background: At the July 9, 2007 Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (Conservancy) meeting, the Conservancy authorized a grant of Proposition 84 funds to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) for the interpretation of the Los Angeles River and Santa Monica Bay Watersheds, including visitor serving amenities and naturalist led interpretive programs for the public as well as programs specifically designed for disadvantaged youth.

The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) has a long history of providing relevant and meaningful interpretation and education programs that not only enhance the visitor experience but promote stewardship and protection of the resources. Though interpretive signage and materials, naturalist led programs and special seminars and events, park visitors to parkland owned or managed by the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy in the Los Angeles River and Santa Monica Bay Watersheds.

In addition to the programs and materials developed for the general public, specific focus will be on amenities and programs which serve disadvantaged communities.

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This includes programs at Vista Hermosa Park and along the Los Angeles River, as well as ensuring that disadvantaged youth have access to the mountains through transportation, education and interpretive programs and overnight camping in the Santa Monica Mountains. The grant includes contracts with community based organization partners, including the Anahuak Youth Association, the Wildwoods Foundation and Outward Bound Adventures.

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